

Appl. No. 10/809,390
Amdt. Dated June 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 19, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A seating bracket for connection to a base having a top surface and a vertical side surface to support a seat and a back joist adjacent to the seat, the bracket comprising:

a generally horizontal top portion for supporting the seat;

a generally horizontal bottom portion for connection to the top surface of the base;

first and second ~~generally vertical~~ side portions extending between and connected to said top and bottom portions and supporting said top portion above said bottom portion;

first and second intersecting cross members extending between and connected to said top portion and ~~to~~ said first and second ~~generally vertical~~ side portions;

an upper back joist support portion connected to said first ~~generally vertical~~ side portion adjacent to said top portion ~~for receiving the back joist and holding the back joist in a generally upstanding position; and~~

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a lower back joist support portion connected to said first ~~generally-vertical~~ side portion adjacent to said bottom portion, said lower back joist support portion comprising a pair of spaced tabs, a base surface extending therebetween, and a downwardly extending portion extending from and below said base surface, said base surface extending perpendicular to said first side portion, and said downwardly extending portion being perpendicular to said bottom portion laterally offset from said first side portion and adapted for connection with said vertical side surface of the base; and

wherein said lower back joist support portion being adapted for receiving the a back joist and, in conjunction with said upper back joist support portion, holding the back joist in a generally upstanding position.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Original) The seating bracket of claim 1 wherein said generally horizontal top portion includes a hole therein for permitting connecting means to connect the seat to said top portion, said generally horizontal bottom portion includes a hole therein for permitting connecting means to connect said bottom portion to said top surface of the base, and wherein said upper and lower back joist support portions each include a hole for permitting connecting means to connect said support portions to the back joist.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The seating bracket of claim 1 wherein the first ~~generally-vertical~~ side portion is inclined with respect to vertical and wherein the upper and lower back joist support portions are adapted to hold the ~~generally-upstanding~~ back joist substantially parallel to said first ~~generally-vertical~~ side portion.

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Claim 5. (Currently amended) A seating bracket for connection to a base having a top surface and a vertical side surface to support a seat and a generally upstanding back joist adjacent to the seat, the bracket comprising:

a quadrangular portion having a top portion for supporting the seat, a bottom portion for connection to the top surface of the base, and first and second sides extending between said top and said bottom portions, said first side being inclined with respect to vertical;

first and second intersecting cross members, said cross members being integrally formed and extending between and connected to said top portion and said sides of said quadrangular portion;

an upper back joist support portion connected to said first side portion adjacent to said top portion ~~for receiving the back joist;~~ and

a lower back joist support portion connected to said first side portion adjacent to said bottom portion, said lower back joist support portion comprising a pair of spaced tabs, a base surface extending therebetween, and a downwardly extending portion extending from and below said base surface, said base surface extending perpendicular to said first side portion, and said downwardly extending portion being perpendicular to said bottom portion laterally offset from said first side portion and adapted for connection with said vertical side surface of the base; and

wherein said lower back joist support portion being adapted for receiving the a back joist and, in conjunction with said upper back joist support portion, holding the back joist in a generally upstanding position,

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Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The seating bracket of claim 5 wherein said upper and lower back joist support portions are adapted to hold the back joist substantially parallel to said first side portion.

Claim 8. (Original) The seating bracket of claim 5 wherein said quadrangular portion, first and second intersecting cross members, upper and lower back joist support portion and downwardly extending portion are a unitary structure.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A deck seat for connection to a deck floor having a top surface and a vertical side surface, the deck seat comprising:

a plurality of brackets connected to the deck floor at spaced positions, each bracket comprising:

a quadrangular portion having a top portion for supporting the seat, a bottom portion for connection to the top surface of the deck floor, and first and second sides extending between and connected to said top and said bottom portions, said first side being inclined with respect to vertical;

first and second intersecting cross members, said cross members being integrally formed and extending between and connected to said top portion and said sides of said quadrangular portion;

an upper back joist support portion connected to said first side portion adjacent to said top portion ~~for receiving the back joist and holding the back joist substantially parallel to the first side portion;~~

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a lower back joist support portion connected to said first side portion adjacent to said bottom portion, said lower back joist support portion comprising a pair of spaced tabs, a base surface extending therebetween, and a downwardly extending portion extending from and below said base surface, said base surface extending perpendicular to said first side portion, and said downwardly extending portion being perpendicular to said bottom portion laterally offset from said first side portion and adapted for connection with said vertical side surface of the base; and

wherein said lower back joist support portion being adapted for receiving the a back joist and, in conjunction with said upper back joist support portion, holding the back joist substantially parallel and in abutment to the first side portion;

a seat plank means supported on said top portion of said quadrangular portions of each bracket and extending therebetween;

a plurality of back joists, each one of said plurality of back joists being connected to a respective one of said plurality of brackets by way of proximate said seat plank means extending through said upper and lower back joist support portions and being supported at its bottom end by a downwardly extending portion below said bottom portion; and

back support means connected to and extending between said back joists at a position above said brackets.